



HOUSE  
BUDGET  
REPUBLICANS

Rep. Steve Womack  
Ranking Member

*Remarks as prepared for delivery:*

I thank the Ranking Member from Texas, Ms. Granger, for yielding.

I am concerned about the direction we are heading with the continuing resolution (CR). This CR includes a provision that has a significant budgetary impact. I am frustrated that the amendment I filed at the Rules Committee last night was not made in order to address it. My amendment would have offset \$76 billion in mandatory spending increases from repealing a rescission of funds in the 2015 Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, or FAST Act.

This provision would have a significant budgetary impact on mandatory spending, which is the primary driver of our nation's growing debt. Let me be clear: the amendment would have allowed the highway funding to go forward, but simply called for it to be paid for.

The House should have an opportunity to consider whether to offset this funding in a fiscally responsible manner. I find it troubling that we were not given the chance to do so.

The manner in which this CR was assembled does not provide a great deal of hope we will enact a full year defense spending bill, which the military services have said is essential. Mr. Speaker, I also am not optimistic that we will conclude all the other funding bills before the expiration of the next CR and we will be back here right before Christmas in the exact same situation having the exact same conversation.

Mr. Speaker, is it not apparent yet to the discerning people of America and everyone in this chamber that this is a flawed and broken process and we need to fix it? What more evidence do we need showing that the budget and appropriations process is broken beyond repair and should be fixed?

I yield back the balance of my time.